

**PROJECTED WORKS.**—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by April 11th, for the execution of various works for the completion of the Portsmouth station of the Brighton and South-Western Railways; by 26th, for the erection of a building for the Town-hall and Market-house Company, at Brentford; by 2nd, for dredging a shoal in the river Thames, at Woolwich; by 17th, for various works (separate tenders) for the Folkstone Water Works Company; by 26th inst., for the erection of an additional story and other alterations to the Sewers' office, No. 1, Greek-street, Soho; by 31st, for constructing dams and erecting new piers and other works, at Allington-lock, near Maidstone; by 14th April, for the execution and completion of the Criminal Court, and other works, at Cardiff; by 4th, for the erection of buildings for baths and wash-houses, at Bristol; by 12th, for the works comprised in the construction of the dry-pool basin and entrance lock from the river Hull to the Victoria dock, at Hull; by 2nd, for the erection of committee-rooms and offices, and the enlargement and alteration of warehouses, at Stourbridge wharf; by 29th inst., for the building, finishing, and completing of a lock-up, at Maryport; by 26th, for alterations and additions at Witterne Lodge (Southampton), together with the erection of an entrance lodge and greenhouse there; by 26th, for paving and materials for the repair of the roads in St. Mary's, Islington; by 27th inst., for planning a skeleton map of the township of Nicholforest (Longtown); by 2nd April, for two several quantities of tubular glazed stoneware pipes, for Oxford; by 27th inst., for 900 yards of cast-iron pipes, and for the works of a reservoir, filter, &c. (separate tenders), for the Industrial schools, at Swinton (Manchester); and by 30th, for lead, tin, red lead, oil, &c., for Bristol Water-works.

**LAVISH EXPENDITURE.**—From the evidence of witnesses examined before a Parliamentary Committee, it appears, that although Pembroke dockyard, begun in 1820, cost only 6,000*l.* in construction, the mere levelling of it afterwards cost 54,630*l.*, and although many years have since transpired, the authorities are still paying nearly 1,500*l.* a-year for hired teams, in place of forming tramways at once. But even all that is nothing to the amount of private contracts for works connected with this same dockyard, and for which public competition has been either never sought for, or effectually put down by favouritism and official jobbing. One person and his brother-in-law (principal and agent), have, it is said, alone had nearly the whole amount of half a million of money in private contracts for works connected with this one dockyard; off that sum, however, they had to provide "dinners and saddle-horses," &c. for certain officers.

**POWER FROM WATER IN AIR-TIGHT PIPES.**—We have already alluded to this new application of power—the pressure of water in air-tight pipes. The *Glasgow Citizen* describes a model engine in the office of the Gorbals Gravitation Water Company, Portland-street, as a beautiful contrivance:—"The model is about one-horse power, with a horizontal cylinder, and having a 12-inch stroke. The water, which here has a pressure of about 210 feet, is introduced to it from a common house pipe; and such is the simplicity of the machine, that a child could work it, and regulate its speed at pleasure, by the mere turning of a handle. The great advantage of this engine consists in the fact that it can be put up in any flat of a house of any street—wherever, in fact, there is a water-pipe. It takes up very little room; it registers the quantity of water which it uses; and it may be erected in those localities in cities where steam-power is prohibited on account of danger and nuisance from smoke, and without raising the rate of insurance."

**THE WINDOW TAX.**—A meeting of the inhabitants of St. Mary, Whitechapel, was held in the vestry room, on the 8th inst., and a petition praying for the repeal of the injurious and unjust tax on light was unanimously resolved on.

**FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH.**—A meeting of this society was held at Great Marlborough-street on the 13th. After the usual business the secretary read a paper, by Mr. D. Wilson, on the positions of founders' tombs in ancient collegiate churches, chantries, &c.

**DECLINE OF TRADE IN SHEFFIELD.**—Too little union among the masters, and too much of it among the men, appear to be fast ruining this once busy seat of trade. Every one complains, yet no one moves an amendment. No sooner does a master undertake any large or important contract than the men are ready to pounce upon him with unreasonable demands, which, if resisted, lead to the sure destruction of his machinery. Thus, while Belgium, Germany, and the United States, in which no such pernicious system prevails, are beating the English out of extensive markets, and even bearding the Sheffielder in his own den, or shaving him rather with his own weapon,—by help of the same sure instrumentality the latter is deliberately cutting his own throat—smashing his own machinery, in fact, in more senses than one. There is a talk of the necessity of some new trade. But of what use would a new trade be with the old system of 'union' and disunion? It is 'a new man' that is wanted probably still more than a new trade.

**COMING WORKS.**—The "Oxford Graduate" (Mr. Ruskin), advertises a new work, "The Seven Lamps of Architecture." Mr. W. Lea has in the press "Tables of the Strength and Deflection of Timber," for the purpose of determining by inspection, and therefore without having recourse to the extraction of roots or the solution of algebraical equations, the scantlings of any description of timber requisite to carry a given weight and to have when loaded a given deflection. They are designed as a kind of ready reckoner for the use of engineers, architects, surveyors, builders, carpenters, joiners, and all persons who may be interested in the subject.

**CALCINED GRANITE.**—Mr. Archibald McDonald, of Aberdeen, some time ago discovered a process for reducing Aberdeen granite to a fine clay, which was moulded into form at the Seaton Pottery, and presented an article of the most beautiful and durable character. Since then, Mr. McDonald has had an experiment tried of working the calcined granite into water-pipes.

**BREQUET TO INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.**—In the Rolls Court, a decision has just been come to which, if not reversed in a higher tribunal, will confirm in favour of the Institution of Civil Engineers a variety of shares in public companies, &c., bequeathed by Mr. Thomas Telford under his will, but resisted by his heir-at-law under the statute of mortmain.

**IMPROVEMENT OF GLOUCESTER.**—The remarks on the want of spirit displayed by the citizens of Gloucester, contained in the last number of *THE BUILDER*, must have been acceptable and gratifying to every individual who really takes an interest in the prosperity of the "fair city." It was observed by a local contemporary that the citizens, during the raging of the late fire at the cathedral, were so laudably sensible of the value of that noble ornament of their city, that the anxiety of the great majority to be of service only made "confusion worse confounded," and yet some days subsequently, when the principal magistrate of the city proposed to increase the efficiency of the fire engines (and no city in England of the same extent is, I am positive, more inefficiently supplied with the means for extinguishing fire), and to institute a fire brigade, persons were found who raised objections to that enlightened mode of procedure. With respect to the proposed museum, I can safely say that no city is more deficient in means of rational amusement than Gloucester, and directly an enlightened member of the town-council, like Mr. S. Bowly, for instance, proposes the establishment of a museum, up rises a member of the same body, who is not very noted for the promotion of learning, and says, "Oh, you had better engage rooms instead for the supply of mutton chops to the poor," and the proposition is negatived. Comment is needless. Mr. William Vernon Guise some time since offered a fine collection to the city, upon condition that a kind of museum should be established within a given time. That period has now elapsed, and the city has been deprived of a very choice collection through the instrumentality of the majority of its local representatives. I enclose my card. A GLOUCESTRIAN.

**WAGES OF MASON IN AUSTRALIA.**—Masons find plenty of employment at from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* per day. Except in the town, very little wrought stone is used for building, unless for large bridges, churches, or other substantial erections. The stone quarries near Adelaide supply this material in abundance, and of excellent quality, and many of the shop fronts and stores in town are now embellished with elegant facings. Limestone is also abundant, and of good quality. In the country, houses are built of rough stone only; but in many parts a peculiar kind of white slatstone is found, which splits off in large slabs, and can be worked with great accuracy: it is as soft as the blue slate, and breaks with a clean straight fracture. In other parts there is a kind of blue marble, which also works well, and makes substantial dwellings. Masons going should take out their own tools, with a few good wedges and crowbars to quarry stone. A wife and children will be no drawback, but the contrary.—*A Working Man's Handbook to Australia.*

**FARM BUILDINGS.**—The choice of a site for a farm-yard, says *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, and the arrangement of its buildings, are questions whose importance are far too seldom regarded. The landlords of England can hardly be too often reminded of these things. "Could they," remarks Mr. Grey, of Dilston, in a valuable paper on farm buildings (*Journ. R. A. S.*, vol. 4, p. 2)—"could they hear now and then the discussions on their management which take place among the farmers around them, they might obtain useful hints for their own benefit." It is upon a general principle only we can usefully dwell in these observations, and what Mr. Grey has in another place said so well, we need not attempt to express in any other words. In commending these things to the careful study of those who have the erection and improvement of farm buildings, we would, above all things, anxiously urge upon their attention the paramount consideration of the health of their inmates. It is idle to consider even the saving of labour, and the other necessary conveniences of a farm-yard, if the farmer's family are to be constantly visited with fevers, and other diseases consequent upon bad drainage; and if his live stock are to be constantly in the hands of the veterinary surgeon. Let the landowner and the architect, then, ever take for their motto the words "health and comfort," whenever the buildings of a farm are under their consideration.

**TO COLOUR MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.**—As Mr. C. H. Smith, in his last letter, mentions the difficulty of colouring inscriptions on monuments, I beg to state that I have found sealing-wax, dissolved in spirits of wine, answer the purpose admirably. Any colours may, of course, be used, and it should be laid on the same as paint.—G. T.

#### NOTICE.

"BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS, MODERN AND MEDIEVAL," being Illustrations of recently erected Edifices, and of some of the Architectural Works of the Middle Ages, with Descriptive Particulars. Edited by George Godwin, F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects, &c., &c., Editor of *THE BUILDER*.

Under the above title it is proposed to publish in bi-monthly parts, price 2*s.* 6*d.* each, the principal Illustrations of Modern and Medieval Buildings which have appeared from time to time in *THE BUILDER*, with their accompanying descriptive particulars. Each part will contain about eight plates, folio size, and eight pages of letter press, with plans and details. The engravings will be printed separately, with care, on a tinted paper.

The first part will be issued in time to be forwarded with the magazines for May 1, and will contain:—

- Her Majesty's Marine Residence, Osborne; with Plan.
- The Carlton Club House, Pall-Mall.
- Church of St. Isaac, at St. Petersburg; with Details.
- Kensington Union Workhouse.
- The Liverpool Branch Bank of England; and Details.
- The New Throne, Canterbury Cathedral.
- The North Porch, Restored, of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.
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